

From: Elizabeth Burton <bookmoose1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:44 AM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: approve residential bldg. code amendments

External Email

Dear SBCC members,

I urge you to approve all of the proposed amendments to the state residential building code. The climate crisis is accelerating and causing death and destruction all over the world. I live in Seattle, and have just experienced weeks of unhealthy, smoke-filled air from wild fires which are more frequent and more intense due to climate change.

The most important action we can take to fight climate change is to *stop burning fossil fuels*. Requiring new homes to use heat pumps rather than gas for space and water heating is a crucial, common-sense, and overdue step in the right direction. There is nothing radical about requiring heat pumps. What's radical, as well as being irresponsible and dangerous, is allowing new construction to be built to use gas even as the habitability of our planet unravels and safe, effective alternatives - namely electric heat pumps - are readily available. In addition to slowing climate change, heat pumps will help us survive our increasingly hot summers, since they are effective at cooling buildings as well as heating them.

Do not give credence to claims that the amendments will impinge of people's freedom. Just as freedom of speech does not entitle someone to yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater, freedom of choice in housing does not entitle someone to contribute to climate breakdown, which harms everyone on the planet.

Please approve all of the proposed amendments.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Burton
Seattle, Washington